

**EPA Region III Notice of Proposal to Issue Final Permits, Notice of Availability of Information
and Request for Public Comment on New Information
Underground Injection Control Permits PAS2D215BWAR and PAS2D216 BWAR
Bear Lake Properties, LLC**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
Water Protection Division, Office of Drinking Water & Source Water Protection
Ground Water & Enforcement Branch (3WP22)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103**

Public Comments will be accepted until November 3, 2012

Description: On June 28, 2012, the Environmental Appeals Board (EAB) of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) remanded to EPA Region III (Region) two Underground Injection Control (UIC) permits which the Region had issued to Bear Lake Properties, LLC (Bear Lake) in Columbus Township, Warren County, Pennsylvania. (See in regard to Bear Lake Properties, LLC, UIC Appeal No. 11-03, EAB June 28, 2012). These permits were to authorize the construction and operation of two Class II-D brine disposal injection wells: the Bittinger #1 and the Bittinger #4. The EAB remanded the permits to the Region on one particular issue only, to clarify the record on the location of drinking water wells within the areas of review for each of the proposed injection wells. The Region has supplemented the administrative record and concluded that there are no known drinking water wells in the areas of review. The supplemental information is posted on the Region's web site at http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/public_notices.htm#bearlake and available for review at the Corry Public Library, 117 West Washington St., Corry, PA.

Pursuant to the EAB remand, and to 40 C.F.R. 124.14, the Region is issuing this public notice to reopen the public comment period on its finding that there are no drinking water wells within the areas of review, which consist of a quarter-mile radius around each proposed injection well. The reopening of the public comment period is limited to the issue of the location of drinking water wells within the areas of review, corresponding to the limited remand from the EAB. Subject to public comment on the Region's findings that there are no drinking water wells located within the areas of review of the proposed injection wells, the Region intends to issue the UIC permits to Bear Lake for Bittinger #1 and Bittinger #4 as proposed during the earlier comment period.

Opportunity for Comment: The administrative record for this action remains available for public inspection during normal business hours at:

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The Administrative Record includes, among other documents, the permit applications, supplemental information from the applicant on drinking water wells, the draft permits, the statements for basis for the draft permits, the June 28, 2012, EAB order and the Region's findings in response to the EAB remand. EPA solicits public comment on the issue of whether all drinking water wells have been identified within the areas of review of the proposed injection wells. Public comment on this issue will be accepted at the address listed above, to the attention of S. Stephen Platt, until November 3, 2012. Comments may also be sent to the following email address: platt.steve@epa.gov. Interested persons may obtain further information by contacting Stephen Platt at the address listed above or by phone at 215-814-5464.